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Message Text

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17
ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /119 W
---------- 099579
R 080520Z FEB 74
FM AMCONSUL KARACHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7836
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: BALUCHISTAN--MARRI-BUGTI AGENCY SET UP; GOVERNOR
DISAVOWS MID-TERM ELECTIONS LIKELY

REF: KARACHI 0291

1. IT WAS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED IN QUETTA FEBRUARY 6 THAT FEBRUARY 5 A POLITICAL AGENCY COMPRISING THE MARRI-BUGTI TRIBAL AREAS OF SIBI DISTRICT HAD BEEN CREATED. POLITICAL AGENT SHAMSHER KHAN LEFT QUETTA FEBRUARY 6 TO TAKE OVER HIS NEW DUTIES. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGENCY'S CREATION NOTED THAT DEVELOPMENT OF THIS AREA HAD BEEN HAMPERED BECAUSE OF ITS SIZE AND POOR COMMUNICATIONS. NEW UNIT WILL PROVIDE ATTENTION TO DEVELOPMENT OF AREA HERETOFORE IGNORED.

2. BALUCHISTAN GOVERNOR ENROUTE TO ISLAMABAD TOLD NEWSMEN IN LAHORE FEBRUARY 6 THERE NO POSSIBILITY OF MID-TERM ELECTIONS IN BALUCHISTAN AND HE PERSONALLY FELT THERE NO NEED FOR SUCH
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ELECTIONS. GOVERNOR EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GOVERNMENT'S MAJORITY

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ACHIEVED IN LAST ASSEMBLY SESSION (REFTEL) WOULD CONTINUE TO HOLD. WHILE GROUPS WITHIN PROVINCE MIGHT BE AGAINST ONE ANOTHER, GOVERNOR SAID HE DID NOT THINK ANYONE IN BALUCHISTAN WAS AGAINST UNITY OF PAKISTAN, OR SUPPORTING IDEA OF "GREATER BALUCHISTAN".

3. COMMENT: CREATION OF MARRI-BUGTI AGENCY MAY BE PRECUSOR OF OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUSTMENTS IN PROVINCE (REFTEL). WHETHER EFFECT OF THIS MOVE WILL BE STABILIZING OR NOT REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IT COULD CUT EITHER WAY. IT DEPENDS ON HOW IT IS PLAYED. IF ARMY WITHDRAWN FROM NEW POLITICAL AGENCY AND LAW AND ORDER LEFT TO LOCAL LEVIES AND PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES SITUATION MIGHT IMPROVE. HOWEVER, IF THIS DEVICE USED TO UNDERMINE POSITION OF SARDARS KEPT OUT OF AREA, OR TO DEPRIVE AREA OF REPRESENTATION IN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY THEN REACTION LIKELY TO BE STRONGLY NEGATIVE.
TIGER

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